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August 21, 2020

**VIA ECF**

Honorable Brian M. Cogan, U.S.D.J.  
United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Rodriguez v. John Doe Corp. et al, 1:20-cv-03141-BMC

Your Honor:

This office represents the Plaintiff in the above referenced matter. Together with counsel for Defendants, we present this joint letter to the Court pursuant to the Court's Order dated July 15, 2020 (ECF Doc. No. 5).

This matter, arising out of Plaintiff's employment at Defendants' Brooklyn restaurant, is an ordinary wage and hour dispute. Plaintiff assert that Defendants committed numerous irregularities with respect to his compensation for worked performed at said establishment, giving rise to claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the New York Labor Law for unpaid minimum wages and overtime wages and illegal wage "kickbacks" in the form of requiring Plaintiff to pay for "tools of the trade," as well as state law claims under the New York Labor Law for unpaid "spread-of-hours" pay, failure to furnish the requisite wage notice and wage statements pursuant to NYLL Sec. 195, and illegal deduction of wages and tips.

Defendants deny the claims of Plaintiff and deny all alleged wrongdoing. Defendants further deny that they received \$500,000.00 in annual gross sales during the subject time period, obviating the applicability of the FLSA and consequent federal question jurisdiction.

Plaintiff asserts that the court has original jurisdiction over Plaintiff's FLSA claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1337(a).

The court has personal jurisdiction over all Defendants inasmuch as they are all residents of New York State and transacted business, including business that is the subject of this litigation, within New York State. Plaintiff asserts that venue is proper in this district because Defendants' primary place of business and the address of the subject restaurant is located within this district.

No particular motions or counterclaims are anticipated at this time.

The parties jointly request that this matter be referred for a settlement conference before a magistrate judge

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The parties thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jordan Gottheim

Jordan Gottheim

MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Attorneys for the Plaintiffs

cc: Jacob Aronauer, Esq. (via email)